

Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date : September 27, 2004

From :  Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Executive Director

Subject: **Agenda Item 18: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 40 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for interpretation of land, air, and water resources at Upper Las Virgenes Canyon Open Space Preserve, Temescal Gateway Park, Franklin Canyon Park, Mentryville, and Towsley Canyon.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the following resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 40 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for interpretation of land, air, and water resources at Upper Las Virgenes Canyon Open Space Preserve, Temescal Gateway Park, Franklin Canyon Park, Mentryville, and Towsley Canyon.

Legislative Authority:

Section 5096.605 (c) of the Public Resources Code provides:

"Development includes, but is not limited to, improvement, rehabilitation, restoration, enhancement, preservation, protection, and interpretation."

Section 5096.605 (j) of the Public Resources Code provides:

"Preservation means identification, evaluation, recordation, documentation, interpretation, protection, rehabilitation, restoration, stabilization, development, and reconstruction, or any combination of those activities."

Section 5096.650 (b) of the Public Resource Code provides:

The sum of... to the conservancies in accordance with the particular provisions of the statute creating each conservancy for acquisition, development...of land and water resources; for grant..., and in accordance with the following schedule: (3) To the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy... \$40,000,000.

Section 33204.27 (a) of the Public Resources Code provides, in part, as follows:

The Conservancy may award grants to school districts or other local agencies for any of the purposes for which it may award grants to nonprofit organizations pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 33204.2

Background: At the April 2004 meeting a grant of Proposition 40 funds was authorized to the Friends of the Conservancy for Interpretive Services which included both natural and cultural history. The authorizing resolution for that grant is being amended so that Friends of the Conservancy will only be responsible for cultural and historical interpretation and funded through an alternate funding source.

Staff requests that the Proposition 40 funds be reallocated to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for the interpretation of land, air and water at Upper Las Virgenes Canyon Open Space Preserve, Temescal Gateway Park, Franklin Canyon Park, Mentryville, and Towsley Canyon. The MRCA has provided interpretive services in parks under the jurisdiction of the Conservancy for over 16 years and has demonstrated an expertise and specific knowledge of that parkland. In the interest of efficiency and program continuity staff recommends that these programs be carried out by the MRCA.

The term of this grant is 18 months. For the purposes of this grant, interpretation includes any exhibits, displays, kiosks, brochures, docent interpretive programs, ranger interpretive programs, and written materials on land, air, and water resources.

All programs will target regional audiences from the most impacted urban areas. The attached grant agreement spells out the specific scope of services that will be provided, including:

1. Interpretation of land, air, and water resources at Temescal Gateway Park, including written materials, docent interpretive programs, and ranger interpretive programs. These programs will directly relate to the Park's natural history and water resources.
2. Interpretation of land, air, and water resources at Upper Las Virgenes Canyon Open Space Preserve. This program directly relates to the Park's rich natural resources. Programming will focus on interpretation of the site's endangered species, ecology, importance in the watershed,

conservation, biodiversity, Mediterranean ecosystems, wildlife corridors, and fire ecology.

3. Interpretation of land, air, and water resources at Mentryville. This program directly relates to the Park's unique geology and natural resources. Interpretation will focus on endangered species, ecology, watersheds, conservation, geology, biodiversity, Mediterranean ecosystems, wildlife corridors, and fire ecology.

4. Interpretation of land, air and water resources at Towsley Canyon. This program directly relates to the Park's rich natural resources. Interpretation will focus on endangered species, ecology, watersheds, conservation, geology, biodiversity, Mediterranean ecosystems, wildlife corridors, and fire ecology.

5. Interpretation of land, air, and water resources at Franklin Canyon Park. This program directly relates to the Park's water resources, including the Franklin Canyon Reservoir and the Heavenly Pond. Additionally, programs focus on natural resource conservation and the dynamics of urban/wildland interfaces.

Timeline and progress reports:

This scope of work will take place in fiscal years 04-05 and 05-06, starting on October 1, 2004 and ending on December 30, 2005. The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority shall provide the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy with detailed quarterly updates that will include: grant milestones, grant compliance, percentage of work completed as of the date of the quarterly report (the number of programs delivered, materials developed, attendance rates, and survey and evaluation responses), and any current issues that affect project compliance with the grant's work program and funding.

Budget

Planning:

Includes planning and development of performance standards and objectives for interpretive materials and programs, evaluation of interpretive materials and programs directly relating to parks under SMMC jurisdiction, and development of written materials interpreting the land, air and water resources

Deputy Executive Officer, Interpretation \$65.61 @1000 hours	65,610
Interpretive Project Specialist \$36.13 @ 650hours	23,484
	\$89,094

Direct Project Management:

Includes all direct management related to and required for the performance of the project.

Deputy Executive Officer, Interpretation \$65.61 @ 800 hours	52,488
interpretive Project Specialist \$36.13 @ 500hours	18,065
	\$70,553

Program Delivery:

Includes interpretation of land, air, and water resources of specific parks under SMMC jurisdiction, as specified in the scope of work

1 Senior Naturalist @ 1040 hours	\$27,388
3 Naturalists @ 500 hours each	\$39,915
	\$67,303

Brochures, Exhibits, and Displays:

Includes expenses for production of brochures, printing, exhibits and other written materials interpreting land, air, and water resources of specific parks under SMMC jurisdiction as specified in the scope of work

Graphic artist \$40 @ 500	\$20,000
Deputy Executive Officer, Interpretation \$65.61 @ 250	\$16,402
Printing	\$9,860
	\$46,262

Direct Expenditures: **\$5,000**

Including postage, delivery charges, transportation

Total: \$278,212